



Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
Phone: (404) 657-5562 WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

Date: 3/18/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 12:40 PM **Departure:** 4:40 PM

CCLC-50331

Helping Hands Learning Center

2115 Windsor Spring Road, Suite 24 Augusta, GA 30906
Richmond County
(706) 748-7599

Regional Consultant

Evon Hewitt

Phone: ()

Fax:

evon.hewitt@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Kaycee Purvis

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation			Compliance Zone Designation - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient. Good Standing - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. Support - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. Deficient - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
03/18/2025	Licensing Study	Support	
09/25/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/17/2024	Incident Investigation & Follow Up	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	Room A	Infants	2	9	C	19	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Room B	One Year Olds	2	19	NC	21	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	Room C	Two Year Olds	2	24	NC	21	NC	NA	NA	Free Play
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 39			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Playground Limitations		
Suite 16	Left Classroom	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	16	NC	21	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Suite 16	Right Classroom	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	16	C	21	C	NA	NA	Free Play
		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 40			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Fire Marshall Limitations		
Total # Children this Date: 84		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 79			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	13	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
10	21	24	16	13	0	15

Comments

The purpose of this visit was a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 04/01/2025

Any rule violation which subjects a child to injury or life-threatening situation or any rule violations previously cited but not corrected, may result in the imposition of an adverse enforcement action. Serious or continued noncompliance may also jeopardize participation in one or more DECAL program(s).

Please refer to the website, <http://www.decgal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>, for information regarding October 1, 2018 rule changes about Criminal Records Checks that may affect your facility. In summary,

- New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the child care industry
- New clearance is required at least once every five years
- Any staff member solely responsible for supervising children will be required to have completed a comprehensive background clearance
- All staff members are required to have completed at least a national fingerprint based clearance check
- Any staff member with only the national fingerprint based clearance, must be under constant and direct supervision of a staff member with a satisfactory comprehensive records check clearance
- Facilities are required to use DECAL KOALA for Criminal Records Checks, including to verify portability of an employee

O.C.G.A. Section 42.1.12(i)(2) requires Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning to notify licensed child care programs on accessing and retrieving from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's (GBI) website a list of the names and addresses of all registered sexual offenders. Please see GBI's website located at <http://gbi.georgia.gov> to access the Georgia Sex Offender Registry.

Refutation Process:

You have the right to refute any of the citations noted in this report with which you disagree. To refute a citation(s), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

Your refutation will be forwarded to the appropriate CCS manager, who will follow up with you about your concerns. If you have any questions about this process, contact our office at 404-657-5562.

Bright from the Start recommends that all licensed child care providers carry liability insurance coverage sufficient to protect its clients. If you do not have this liability insurance, you are required to post a notice with ½ inch letters in a conspicuous location in the program, notify the parent or guardian of each child in care in writing, obtain their signature to acknowledge receipt and maintain this written acknowledgment on file at the program at all times while the child attends the program and for 12 months after the child's last date of attendance. (O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-4)

Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development. The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined based on observation that classroom Suite 16- Left and classroom Suite 16- Right did not have lesson plans as required. It was further determined that classroom Suite 16- Left and Suite 16- Right did not have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Discussed adding equipment and toys to enhance variety.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Technical Assistance

Comment

Please ensure that the toilet seat in the girls bathroom of Suite 16 is the appropriate size.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.06(5) - requires Center Staff to provide platforms or sets of steps at the toilets and sinks to assist children who are unable to use the fixtures comfortably when child-size fixtures are not provided. In Centers with a licensed capacity of 19 or more children, the toilet facilities for children aged four (4) and older shall be suitably screened for privacy. Please ensure that chairs are not used as substitutes for platforms or sets of steps.

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2025

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on observation that the Center cared for 24 children within Main Room C which was licensed for 21 children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/19/2025

Recited on 3/18/2025

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that there were electrical cords accessible to children under the cribs at the middle and back right of Classroom A.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.25(8) requires protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that there were uncovered electrical outlets accessible to children in the following classrooms:

Classroom A
Suite 16- Left
Suite 16- Right

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

Recited on 3/18/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the black fencing that provided a barrier between the play area and electrical boxes located on the front wall of the playground was unsecured and leaning backward.

Correction Deadline: 4/22/2025

Recited on 3/18/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that there was less than one inch of resilient surfacing under the blue slide on Playground A when three inches was required.

Correction Deadline: 3/21/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were accessible to children on the playground:

Playground A

-There was a concrete cinder block with sharp corners at the back left.

Playground B

-There were cigarette butts in the play area.

-Splintered wood pieces were in the play area.

-A Food Lion shopping cart was at the back left corner.

-A box with broken and discarded equipment and toys.

- A broken wooden ramp was at the front right with loose flooring which posed a potential tripping hazard.

-There was a wasp's nest at the front right above the playground exit door.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Met****Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk
 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk
 2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.18(4) - requires kitchen lights to be shielded. Please ensure that all lights within the kitchen area are shielded as required.

Correction Deadline: 3/28/2025

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff stated knowledge of proper handwashing procedures.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety**591-1-1-.05 Animals****N/A****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**N/A****Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that eight out of out eight crib sheets were not tight fitting as required on this date.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that there was a sleeping infant in a rocker in classroom A.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.30(4). requires that if cots and mats are stored in the children's activity room or area, they shall be stored to prevent children's access to them and to allow maximum use of play space. When storage is available and used for the storage of cots and mats that allows the cots, mats and any bedding to be stored without touching any other cots, mats or bedding, the bedding may be left on the cot or mat. When such storage is not available for the cots and mats, each child's bedding shall be kept separate from other children's bedding and stored in containers marked for individual use, such as, but not limited to, bins, cubbies, or bags. It was determined based on observation that the cots in use in classroom Suite-16- Left and classroom Suite 16- Right had broken legs causing the mesh platform to touch the floor.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 11

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 8

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/10/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/20/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.14(2)-First Aid Missing,.14(2)-CPR missing

Staff # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/08/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/09/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 9

Not Met

Date of Hire: 01/13/2013

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/01/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 11

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/20/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)

Not Met

Comment

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Finding

591-1-1-.14(2) requires a Staff member who is trained in CPR and first aid to be on the premises and on any field trip whenever any child is present. In addition, Staff who provide direct care to children must satisfactorily obtain certification in first aid and CPR by December 29, 2016 if employed prior to September 30, 2016 and within 90 days of their hire date if employed after September 30, 2016. It was determined that Staff #2 (Date of Hire: 07/20/2020) and Staff #5 (Date of Hire: 02/08/2021) did not have evidence of completing CPR and First Aid training as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/26/2025

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #6 (Date of Hire: 09/09/2022) and Staff #10 (Date of Hire: 05/01/2020) did not have evidence of completing health and safety training as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/17/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #1, hired on 12/10/2019 and Staff #5, hired on 02/08/2021 did not have evidence of four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/17/2025

Finding

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #1 (Date of Hire: 12/10/2019), Staff #2 (Date of Hire: 07/20/2020), Staff #4 (Date of Hire: 09/29/2020), Staff #5 (Date of Hire: 02/08/2021), Staff #6 (Date of Hire: 09/09/2022), Staff #9 (Date of Hire: 01/13/2013), Staff #10 (Date of Hire: 05/01/2020), and Staff #11 (Date of Hire: 07/20/2020) did not have evidence of completing ten hours of annual training for the 2024 calendar year as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) **Met**

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) **Not Met**

Finding

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20;and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on observation that classroom B had a Staff:child ratio of 2:19 when a Staff:child ratio of 3:19 was required. It was further determined based on observation that classroom C had a Staff:child ratio of 2:24 when a Staff:child ratio of 3:19 was required.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

Finding

591-1-1-.32(2) requires the Center maintain Staff:child ratios in mixed-age groups based on the age of the youngest group of children that includes more than twenty percent of the total number of children in the mixed-age group. It was determined based on observation that classroom Suite 16-Left had a Staff:child ratio of 1:16 (five three-year-olds and eleven four-year-olds) when a Staff:child ratio of 2:16 was required.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(7) requires that children be supervised at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. It was determined based on observation that Staff briefly left classroom Suite 16-Left, which had sixteen children present, to open the front door of the Center.

Correction Deadline: 3/18/2025